

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST FOR EHB 1249

Citations Affected: IC 21-14.

Synopsis: Tuition exemption for Purple Heart recipients. Proposed conference committee report to EHB 1249. Provides that an Indiana resident who: (1) enters on active duty service in the armed forces of the United States or the Indiana National Guard after September 10, 2001; (2) receives the Purple Heart decoration; and (3) satisfies other criteria; is exempt from tuition and fees at a state educational institution. Provides that the tuition and fee exemption for: (1) certain children of veterans; (2) spouses and children of National Guard members; and (3) Purple Heart recipients; for a credit hour is equal to the cost of an undergraduate credit hour. Provides that the tuition and fee exemptions for Purple Heart recipients are not eligible for reimbursement by the state for the 2009 fiscal year. Requires the legislative council to assign to a study committee the study of tuition and fee exemptions awarded by state educational institutions under reciprocity agreements with other postsecondary educational institutions. **(This conference committee report deletes and reinserts the contents of EHB 1249 as printed February 20, 2008, with the following changes: (1) Provides that tuition and fee exemptions for Purple Heart recipients are not eligible for reimbursement by the state for the period beginning July 1, 2008, and ending June 30, 2009. (2) Requires the legislative council to assign to a study committee the study of tuition and fee exemptions awarded by state educational institutions under reciprocity agreements with other postsecondary educational institutions. (3) Makes a technical correction.)**

Effective: Upon passage; July 1, 2008.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Conference Committee appointed to confer with a like committee from the Senate upon Engrossed Senate Amendments to Engrossed House Bill No. 1249 respectfully reports that said two committees have conferred and agreed as follows to wit:

that the House recede from its dissent from all Senate amendments and that the House now concur in all Senate amendments to the bill and that the bill be further amended as follows:

- 1 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert the following:
- 2 SECTION 1. IC 21-14-1-4, AS ADDED BY P.L.2-2007, SECTION
- 3 255, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
- 4 1, 2008]: Sec. 4. "Eligible applicant":
- 5 (1) for purposes of IC 21-14-4, refers to a person who is eligible
- 6 for an educational costs exemption for children of veterans under
- 7 IC 21-14-4;
- 8 (2) for purposes of IC 21-14-6, refers to a person who is eligible
- 9 for an educational costs exemption for the children or surviving
- 10 spouse of a public safety officer under IC 21-14-6; ~~and~~
- 11 (3) for purposes of IC 21-14-7, refers to a person who is eligible
- 12 for an educational costs exemption for children and spouses of
- 13 National Guard members under IC 21-14-7; **and**
- 14 **(4) for purposes of IC 21-14-10, refers to a person who is**
- 15 **eligible for an educational costs exemption for Purple Heart**
- 16 **recipients under IC 21-14-10.**
- 17 SECTION 2. IC 21-14-4-2, AS ADDED BY P.L.2-2007, SECTION
- 18 255, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON
- 19 PASSAGE]: Sec. 2. **(a) Subject to subsection (b)**, an eligible applicant
- 20 is entitled to enter, remain, and receive instruction in a state
- 21 educational institution upon the same conditions, qualifications, and
- 22 regulations prescribed for other applicants for admission to or scholars

in the state educational institutions, without the payment of any educational costs for one hundred twenty-four (124) semester credit hours in the state educational institution.

(b) The maximum amount that an eligible applicant is exempt from paying for a semester hour is an amount equal to the cost of an undergraduate semester credit hour at the state educational institution in which the eligible applicant enrolls.

SECTION 3. IC 21-14-7-2, AS ADDED BY P.L.2-2007, SECTION 255, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 2. **(a) Subject to subsection (b)**, an eligible applicant is exempt from the payment of educational costs for instruction at the state educational institution in which the eligible applicant is enrolled or will enroll.

(b) The maximum amount that an eligible applicant is exempt from paying for a semester hour is an amount equal to the cost of an undergraduate semester credit hour at the state educational institution in which the eligible applicant enrolls.

SECTION 4. IC 21-14-10 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008]:

Chapter 10. Tuition and Fee Exemption for Purple Heart Recipients

Sec. 1. This chapter applies to a person who:

- (1) after September 10, 2001, enters on active duty service from a permanent home address in Indiana;**
- (2) receives an honorable discharge;**
- (3) receives the Purple Heart decoration for service described in subdivision (1);**
- (4) is eligible to pay the resident tuition rate at the state educational institution the person will attend as determined by the institution; and**
- (5) possesses the requisite academic qualifications.**

Sec. 2. (a) Subject to subsection (b), an eligible applicant is entitled to enter, remain, and receive instruction in a state educational institution upon the same conditions, qualifications, and regulations prescribed for other applicants for admission to or scholars in the state educational institution, without the payment of any educational costs for one hundred twenty-four (124) semester credit hours in the state educational institution.

(b) The maximum amount that an eligible applicant is exempt from paying for a semester hour is an amount equal to the cost of an undergraduate semester credit hour at the state educational institution in which the eligible applicant enrolls.

Sec. 3. For purposes of this chapter, the commission for higher education, in consultation with the state student assistance commission, shall define mandatory fees that qualify as educational costs.

Sec. 4. If an eligible applicant:

- (1) is permitted to matriculate in a state educational institution;**
- (2) qualifies under this chapter; and**

(3) has earned or has been awarded a cash scholarship that is paid or payable to the state educational institution, from any source;

the amount paid shall be applied to the credit of the eligible applicant in the payment of incidental expenses of the eligible applicant's attendance at the state educational institution. The balance, if the terms of the scholarship permit, must be returned to the eligible applicant.

Sec. 5. Determination of eligibility for higher education benefits authorized under this chapter is vested exclusively in the Indiana department of veterans' affairs. Any applicant for benefits under this chapter may make a written request for a determination of eligibility by the Indiana department of veterans' affairs. The director or deputy director of the Indiana department of veterans' affairs shall make a written determination of eligibility in response to each request. In determining the amount of an eligible applicant's benefit, the state student assistance commission shall consider other higher education financial assistance in conformity with this chapter.

Sec. 6. An appeal from an adverse determination under section 5 of this chapter must be made in writing to the veterans' affairs commission not more than fifteen (15) working days following the applicant's receipt of the determination. A final order must be made by a simple majority of the veterans' affairs commission not more than fifteen (15) days following receipt of the written appeal.

Sec. 7. A person who knowingly or intentionally submits a false or misleading application or other document under this chapter commits a Class A misdemeanor.

Sec. 8. The amount of the benefits under this chapter is equal to one (1) of the following:

(1) If the eligible applicant does not receive financial assistance specifically designated for educational costs, the amount determined under sections 2 through 6 of this chapter.

(2) If the eligible applicant receives financial assistance specifically designated for educational costs:

(A) the amount determined under sections 2 through 6 of this chapter; minus

(B) the financial assistance specifically designated for educational costs.

SECTION 5. [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE] (a) IC 21-14-4-2 and IC 21-14-7-2, both as amended by this act, apply to applications for eligible tuition or fee exemptions that are made after June 30, 2008.

(b) This SECTION expires December 31, 2008.

SECTION 6. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008] (a) A tuition or fee exemption under IC 21-14-10, as added by this act, is not eligible for reimbursement from an appropriation for statutory tuition or fee remissions or any other funds of the state.

(b) This SECTION expires June 30, 2009.

SECTION 7. [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE] (a) The legislative

1 **council shall assign to a study committee during the 2008 interim**
2 **the study of tuition and fee exemptions awarded by state**
3 **educational institutions under reciprocity agreements with other**
4 **postsecondary educational institutions located in or outside**
5 **Indiana.**

6 **(b) This SECTION expires December 31, 2008.**

7 **SECTION 8. An emergency is declared for this act.**

(Reference is to EHB 1249 as printed February 20, 2008.)

Conference Committee Report
on
Engrossed House Bill 1249

Signed by:

Representative Klinker
Chairperson

Senator Wyss

Representative Crouch

Senator Tallian

House Conferees

Senate Conferees